

"Serving Those Who Have Served"

A DSHS/DCS - WDVA Partnership

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the DSHS Division of Child Support (DCS) are partnering together to help veterans get all the benefits that they have earned and assist them with their child support issues.

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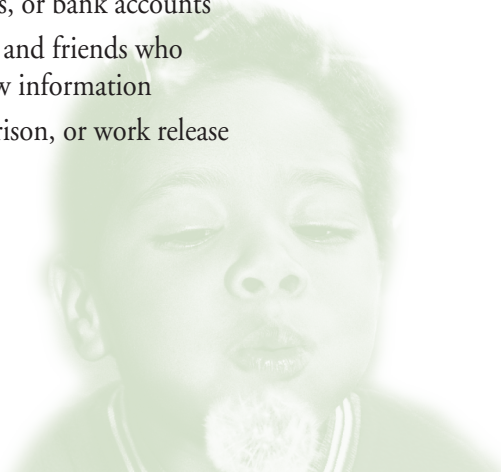
Tell us when

- The child moves out of your home
- You move to a new address
- You change your name
- You start working or change jobs
- There is a new court order changing child support
- You get deployed or just get back from deployment

DCS contacts parents and caretakers to ask if they have information to help collect child support.

Tell us if the paying parent:

- Changes jobs, becomes unemployed, or is injured
- Uses other names and Social Security numbers
- Owns cars, houses, investments, or bank accounts
- Has family and friends who might know information
- Is in jail, prison, or work release



We are here TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Please call us today!

The DSHS Division
of Child Support

**1-800-457-6202 or
360-664-5200**

*childsupportonline.wa.gov
DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov*

or

The Department
of Veterans Affairs

1-800-562-2308

*www.dva.wa.gov
Webmaster@dva.wa.gov*



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The
**Department
of Social &
Health Services**
Division of Child Support

In Partnership with

The
**Department
of Veterans
Affairs**

Working together
by serving those
who served



Child support is more than just money

Children need support from both parents. When a parent does not live with the child, child support is the money paid to provide for the child's basic needs.

- A child's basic needs include food, shelter and clothing. They can also include day care costs, educational fees and medical coverage.
- Taking care of children's needs gives them a healthier, more secure life.

The DSHS Division of Child Support

The Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Child Support (DCS) collects child support for children receiving public assistance and for those who have a parent or parents out of the home.

We have a special phone number designed to answer all Veterans questions:

- Call our Community Relations Unit at **800-457-6202** or **360-664-5200**
- Or go to our website at: childsupportonline.wa.gov

DCS can help you ...

- Get straight forward answers to your questions
- Research and provide Veterans with options
- Review the case for modification and look at substantial change of income
- Establish paternity
- Modify your child support order or negotiate a payment plan
- Provide visitation and custody resources
- Provide an administrative order when there is not a court order

- Provide referrals to court facilitators located in each County
- Referrals to Dispute Resolution Centers

DCS cannot help you with ...

- Child custody or visitation disputes
- Enforcement of community property settlements
- Collection of attorney's fees
- Other non-child support related debts

Paternity

Washington State establishes paternity (fatherhood) when the father voluntarily agrees he is the father and signs an affidavit. Fathers should not sign the paternity affidavit unless they are absolutely sure they are the father. We also use genetic testing to determine fatherhood. Knowing who the father is allows children to get child support money. It may also help children to get health insurance, veteran's benefits, or social security benefits.

There are three ways to become the legal father of a child:

- Marry the mother before the child's birth
- Sign a legal form called a Paternity Affidavit. The birth certificate names the father if both parents agree to sign the form.
- Go to court

Court and Administrative Orders

In Washington, County Superior and Tribal Courts establish court orders and decide who should pay the child support. Orders can be for custody, paternity, day care, and other child support related issues. Only the court can make changes to a court order.

If parent does not have a court order for child support, DCS uses a process (allowed under law) that creates an administrative order. Then DCS acts to collect child support.

DCS cannot change the wording in court orders. State law requires DCS to follow court orders exactly as written.

When DCS establishes a child support order, they include a medical support provision requiring the non-custodial parent to provide medical insurance when it is available through an employer or union.

Arrears

- DCS and the courts set the monthly child support payments using the Washington State Child Support Schedule based on the parents' income to pay
- Unpaid child support payments create a debt called arrears.
- Money owed to a custodial parent for back child support or to DSHS for money given to the child through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families are arrears debts

Other states

State and federal laws allow states to work together when parents live in different states. DCS can ask other states to help establish, modify and collect child support and the other states can ask DCS to help them.

Because state laws are not the same, it is often difficult to collect regular payments when two or more states work on a child support case. When this happens, DCS tries to find and attach wages on its own. Some states charge fees for services while others charge interest on unpaid arrears debt balances. Washington State charges custodial parents a \$25 annual fee if they never received Public Assistance.

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